

Message Text

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SUBJECT: URUGUYAN DIPLOMAT COMMENTS ON "ASYLEES" AND
RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1062

1. JUAN ODDONE SILVEIRA, MINISTER COUNSELOR OF THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 6 THAT RECENT RASH OF URUGUAYANS SEEKING REFUGE IN MEXICAN EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO ARE NOT BONAFIDE ASYLUM CASES SINCE ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED ARE FREE TO LEAVE URUGUAY AND IN FACT DO LEAVE UNMOLESTED AND WITHOUT USING SAFE CONDUCT PASSES. ALTHOUGH THE GOU IS CLEARLY ANNOYED THAT THE GOM TERMS THE 50 OR SO INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY IN ITS EMBASSY AS "ASYLEES" AND PROVIDES AIR TICKETS FOR THEM TO COME TO MEXICO AS WELL AS JOBS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEM HERE, IT TAKES A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW TOWARD THE MATTER. ODDONE SAID THAT THE RECENT SPATE OF MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS ABOUT URUGUAYANS FEELING AN ALLEGEDLY REPRESSIVE REGIME AT HOME IS JUST "ANOTHER DROP" ADDED TO THE LONG-STANDING TORRENT OF CRITICISM OF THE GOU HERE. THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION IS BUSILY BRINGING TO MEXICO A LARGE AND DANGEROUS GROUP OF EXTREMISTS FROM NOT ONLY URUGUAY BUT ALSO CHILE, ARGENTINA AND ELSEWHERE IN L.A. ODDONE ADDED THAT MANY MEXICANS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOM, RECOGNIZE THIS
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DANGER AND THINK ECHEVERRIA IS FOOLISH FOR DOING THIS.

2. ODDONE SAID THAT THE GOU HAD FIRST BECOME AWARE OF A CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT IT LAST YEAR IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. THIS CAMPAIGN, WHICH HE SAID WAS FINANCED BY CUBA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF EUROPE, INCLUDED A MEETING LAST FEBRUARY IN LONDON OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WHICH CONDEMNED THE GOU FOR PRACTICING REPRESSION AND TORTURE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIMILAR MEETING IN MARCH OF THE MEXICAN MOVEMENT FOR PEACE, ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES (A LEFTIST ORGANIZATION WITH STRONG COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION) WHICH ALSO CONDEMNED THE GOU. ODDONE REPLIED THAT THIS MEETING WAS PART OF THE SAME CAMPAIGN BUT THAT THE GOM HAS NOT JOINED IT. RATHER, HE ASSERTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE SIMPLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ECHEVERRIA'S WELL-KNOWN PREDILECTIONS. THE PCU, HE SAID, HAS INSTRUCTED SOME OF ITS MEMBERS TO SEEK ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY TO EMBARRASS THE GOU.

3. FINALLY, ODDONE SAID THAT HE BELIEVES JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, WHO WILL BECOME PRESIDENT DECEMBER 1, WILL NOT COURT THE LEFTISTS AND EXTREMISTS OF L.A. THE WAY THE PRESENT REGIME HAS IF ECHEVERRIA'S INFLUENCE IN THE GOM CAN BE CIRCUMSCRIBED. IN ODDONE'S VIEW, LOPEZ PORTILLO REALIZES THAT ECHEVERRIA HAS PUSHED CONSERVATIVE AND MODERATE MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN TOO FAR AND THAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS PRIVATE INVESTMENT. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS THE POLITICAL STRENGTH AND ACUMEN TO CHECK ECHEVERRIA'S INFLUENCE. THOMPSON

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